

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on August 3, 2005. Claims 1-16, 18 and 21-23 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 8 and 16 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claims 2, 9 and 10 have been cancelled, and Claims 1, 8 and 16 have been amended. No new matter or issues are believed to be introduced by the amendments.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of Claims 2 and 10 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the present amendment, independent Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include the recitations of Claims 2, and 9 and 10, respectively, in an effort to expedite the allowance of the application. Independent Claim 16 has also been amended to include similar recitations as the recitations recited by Claims 2 and 10. Hence, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and that a new search is not required.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 11, 12, 14-16, 18 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,116,315 issued to Capozzi et al. on May 26, 1992 ("Capozzi et al.").

Applicant amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 16 in a manner which is believed would expedite the allowance of the application as discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) with respect to Claims 1, 8 and 16 and allowance of Claims 1, 8 and 16 are respectfully requested.

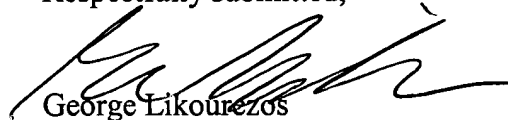
Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-15 and 18 depend from Claims 1, 8 and 16, and therefore include the limitations of Claims 1, 8 and 16. Accordingly, withdrawal of the

rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) with respect to the dependent claims and allowance of the dependent claims are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-16, 18 and 21-23, are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at (631) 501-5706.

Respectfully submitted,



George Likourezos

Reg. No. 40,067

Attorney for Applicant

Send Correspondence To:

Mark Farber, Esq.
Tyco Healthcare Group LP
150 Glover Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06856
631-501-5706
FAX: 631-501-3526